

life in a fishbowl study confirms clergy spouses experience high level of stress

the results of a new study on life for clergy families, sponsored by the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, confirm what many have suspected: United Methodist clergy spouses face tremendous stress from their spouses' jobs, yet receive little, if any support, from the church.

The study, conducted by Mackie H. Norris, Ph.D., offers a first step for the United Methodist Church to undertake more extensive research into the needs of clergy spouses and families. This research undergirds the petition, "Life in the Fishbowl," which the Commission has sent to General Conference.

"Spouses and families can and do provide tremendous support in a clergyperson's life," says Norris, a health professional and president of Norris and Associates, "but when spouses have difficulty fulfilling expectations and responsibilities, real or perceived, the discomfort most often has a profound effect on the clergyperson's ability and availability to be accountable to his/her calling."

This is true, she adds, whether the clergyperson is a male or female, although there are indications that male spouses have less difficulty with expectations and are not bound by previously set norms.

"Clergy spouses want to be accepted, heard, and appreciated," Norris adds. "Both the parish and the clergy

family would be strengthened if such concerns are addressed within a supportive and caring environment."

Most survey respondents indicated that they were not aware of resources available through annual conferences that could assist their families in times of crisis. Moreover, many declared that they would not use existing denominational support for fear of the potential damage to their spouse's career.

Not surprisingly, among the stresses identified by respondents are the demands of their spouses' schedule, the expectation of perfection for themselves and their children by parishioners, lack of privacy in their homes, feelings of isolation, and the frequency of changing their own employment as clergy change appointments.

On the other hand, clergy spouses mentioned repeatedly the joy of participating in a loving, caring community. They also included other "perks," such as parsonage, pension, the connection, and job security. Interestingly, parsonage life and connectionalism also ranked as negative factors.

GCSRW petition supports clergy families

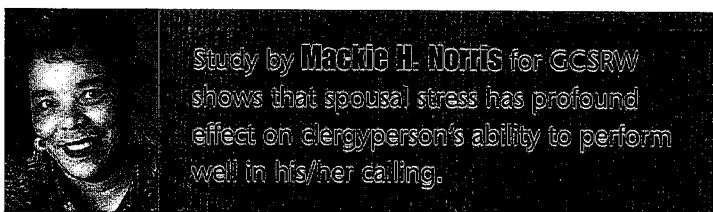
Recognizing the unique pressures experienced by clergy spouses, who are most frequently women, the Commission has proposed a new resolution entitled "Clergy Spouses and Families—Life in the Fishbowl." (For full text, see the GCSRW website, www.gcsr.org.)

This resolution declares, "Sustaining the emotional, spiritual, physical, and economic health of our clergy families is a ministry to be recommended to every congregation and district."

Among the recommendations to the denomination for addressing clergy spouses/family concerns:

- Convene a forum focusing on clergy spouse and families issues as experienced globally, the programs and resources available to clergy families, cabinets and

please turn to page 5



Study by Mackie H. Norris for GCSRW shows that spousal stress has profound effect on clergyperson's ability to perform well in his/her calling.

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We've got a new look! *The Flyer*, our agency's primary networking tool, is changing—for the better.

Veteran editor Bonny Stalnaker Roth and our entire staff have heard your concerns and requests for more tools for local churches, more information about the victories and challenges faced by women at all levels of church life, and more inspirational stories of everyday laywomen and clergywomen who represent the best of what GCSRW endeavors to do and be.

We're retooling *The Flyer* and working on our website to help keep you better connected to what's happening in our church around women's concerns and to support networks among all people concerned about making the church a more just and creative place by doing God's will and breaking down walls of gender, race and other biases.

And you're invited to join us. As you'll notice, our new format offers more opportunities for ideas and stories from your seminary, district, conference or congregation. If you have a story to share, drop us a note. We look forward to continuing the journey with you.

Celebrating the One who has created and still is creating!

—M. Garlinda Burton
Interim general secretary, GCSRW

Check out
our website

www.gcsr.org

The Flyer

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The Flyer is published four times yearly by the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women (GCSRW) in The United Methodist Church. Primary distribution of *The Flyer* is through the Annual Conference Commissions on the Status and Role of Women and Response Network Resource Teams. Women outside the United States, please ask your bishops' office to make sure you get *The Flyer*.

EDITOR: Bonny Stalnaker Roth

The General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, an agency of the worldwide United Methodist Church, acts as an advocate, catalyst, and monitor to ensure the full participation and equality of women in the church.

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The Flyer invites you to subscribe and thus demonstrate your support for women in the United Methodist Church. As the primary communication tool of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women, *The Flyer* offers its readers updates on women's issues and resources for annual conference and local church women's groups. Your subscription will guarantee four issues of *The Flyer* for one year.

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The **paper** we use is part of our advocacy for women

Unusual as it may sound, the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women also advocates for women simply by the paper we choose for this newsletter—that is, by purchasing and using processed chlorine-free paper. Four years ago we announced the change, following a report from Women’s Division, General Board of Global Ministries.

“The paper costs a bit more than other kinds, but we believe that the health of women and future generations and our environment are part of our responsibility as Christians,” explains Garlinda Burton, interim general secretary.

With this issue of *The Flyer*, we have switched from processed chlorine-free paper to 100% recycled chlorine-free and processed chlorine-free paper. This new paper moves us a step further along the continuum toward healthier, more environmentally friendly products.

Most paper is bleached with chlorine, which is a chemical created by passing an electrical current through salt water or melted salt. A dangerous byproduct of that processing is a family of chemicals known as dioxins, which have been linked to breast cancer and other health risks.

Wonder Women



Carolyn H. Burrus

Home church: Parkwood UMC, Durham, N.C.

Accomplished: Hospice chaplain who shares her insights into end-of-life pastoral care with United Methodist pastors and congregations through a workshop she developed.

Role models: Anna Howard Shaw, Georgia Harkness, Peter Storey, and Jimmy Carter

Wise words: “Healing and attending to the needs of the sick were key in Jesus’ ministry—and if Jesus is our model for Christian life, then the sick and dying should also be a key focus in our individual and congregational lives.”

To **kathryn hofeldt**, who has been named treasurer/chief financial officer at General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

To **deborah e. bass**, formerly interim deputy general secretary for Evangelization and Church Growth, and Community and Institutional Ministries, who has been named deputy general secretary for administration of the General Board of Global Ministries.

To **janet cromwell**, who has been named admissions director at United Methodist-related Claremont School of Theology.

To **wiera jelinek**, who, on Sept. 14, 2003, became the first woman to be ordained in the Reformed Evangelical Church, the first church in Poland’s Protestant minority to appoint a female pastor—150 years after the world’s first Reformed woman was ordained in New York.

To **gwyn stetler**, a deacon in full connection in the West Ohio Conference who serves at Trinity UMC, Columbus, Ohio, and a doctoral student at Ohio State University in the College of Social Work, who has been awarded a Diaconia Graduate Fellowship Award for 2003-04 from the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

To **ginny underwood**, named director of UM News Service.

To **suanne ware-diaz**, who has been named an associate general secretary of the General Commission on Religion and Race. ✨



Water washed, spirit born

GCSRW to monitor participation of women, persons of color

For the fourth consecutive General Conference, the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women continues its ministry of monitoring the participation of women and persons of color in legislative committees, plenary sessions, and appointments to task groups and commissions.

Pat Callbeck Harper, GCSRW consultant who is coordinating the monitoring team ministry, says, "Our simple process counts by tally marks who is participating in

- Elected leadership
- Plenary presentations and discussions
- Committee debates and action

"Sharing the results of our objective observations with presiding officers provides an immediate tool to help persons become better facilitators and presiders."

Results of monitoring participation will be published in the *Daily Christian Advocate* in distinctive columns.

Harper points out, "At the 2000 General Conference we were thrilled with the response of legislative chairpersons and bishops when we reported the results of our

DELEGATE ALERT

GCSRW asks for 'non-concurrence' vote on petition to create inclusiveness council

Members of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women have decided not to support a petition that the agency had submitted for consideration at the 2004 General Conference.

The petition, approved last September, asks General Conference to agree that the Commission and the General Commission on Religion and Race start planning for a single "Council on Inclusiveness" that would handle all issues of gender and race discrimination within the denomination.

Meeting Feb. 27-29 in Pittsburgh, the Commission agreed that members sitting in the General Conference legislative committee on independent commissions would move for a vote of nonconcurrency or no support on the petition.

For further information, visit the Commission website, www.gcsr.org.

monitoring. People are usually surprised at the results, for they would never intentionally exhibit bias against women or persons of color."

An important element in the monitoring process is the immediacy of feedback. As soon as a session ends, a monitoring team member will go directly to the presiding officer to show the results, the tally marks of women, men, persons of color, as well as lay and clergy, when that information is known. This ministry has imposed the way many committees and groups work in General Conference. We pray it will contribute a spirit of respect and inclusiveness to the Conference in Pittsburgh. ✨

GCSRW petitions for General Conference

The following petitions were submitted by the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women for consideration by 2004 General Conference. The full text is available at the GCSRW website at www.gcsr.org.

- **Celebration of Full Clergy Rights for Women**, *new resolution.*
- **Clergy Spouses and Families ("Life in the Fishbowl")**, *new resolution.*
- **Biblical Language**, *amends Book of Resolutions No. 32.*
- **Eradication of Sexism in the Church**, *replaces Book of Resolutions No. 40.*
- **Inclusiveness of the Church**, *amends Book of Discipline Par. 4, Article IV of The Constitution.*
- **Appointment Making**, *amends Book of Discipline Par. 432.1.*
- **Chargeable Offenses and the Statute of Limitations**, *amends Book of Discipline Par. 2702.*

CLERICAL CORNER

UM Clergywomen in 2004 (U.S.)

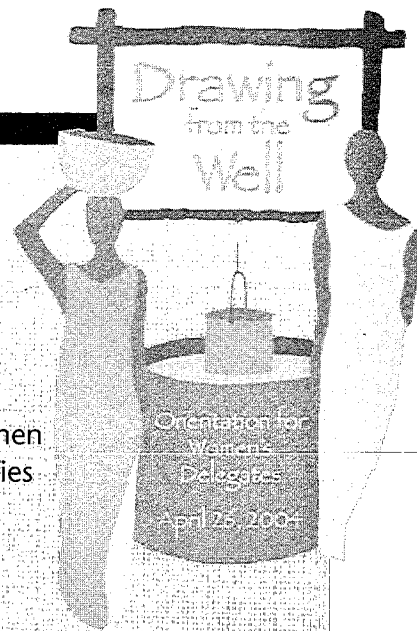
MEASURE	2004	2000
All ordained elders	21.9%	13%
Ordained racial-ethnic clergywomen in pastoral ministry	11.6%	13%
District superintendents	23.3%	15%
Women bishops, active and retired	11.5%	8%
Women bishops, active	22.0%	16%
Women who are pastors of 1,000+ member churches	4.6%	2%

Source: General Council on Finance and Administration
Note: No data are available on Central Conference clergywomen other than the bishops, none of whom are women.

ATTENTION WOMEN DELEGATES TO GENERAL CONFERENCE 2004

- WHO:** Women delegates and alternates, women bishops, communicators and agency staff
- WHAT:** Pre-General Conference Orientation for Women Delegates, sponsored by the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women and the Women's Division of the General Board of Global Ministries
- THEME:** "Drawing from the Well"
- WHEN:** Monday, April 26 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm
- WHERE:** Pittsburgh Convention Center, Ballroom C
- WHY:** To discuss issues of importance to women, hear from UMC leaders, and connect with other delegates
- HOW:** To register, contact
General Commission on the Status and Role of Women
1200 Davis St., Evanston IL 60201
(847) 869-7330 • fax: (847) 869-1466 • gcsr@gcfa.org

(Please put in the subject line
"Attn: Women's Orientation 2004")



Women's Division submits petitions on global racism, corporate greed

The following petitions were submitted by the Women's Division, General Board of Global Ministries for consideration by 2004 General Conference. The full text of these petitions is available at the Women's Division website at www.gb-gm-umc.org/umw/gc2004.

New Resolutions

- Compensation for "Comfort Women"
- Global Racism and Xenophobia: Impact on Women, Children and Youth
- Greed
- In Defense of International Law and Cooperation
- Privatization
- Protection of Water
- Teen Sexual Identity and Suicide Risk
- Disciplinary Change: To the Legislative Committee

Revised Resolutions

- The Status of Women
- Rape in Times of Conflict and War
- Affirmative Action
- Biblical Language
- Environmental Justice for a Sustainable Future
- Environmental Racism
- Support Reparations for African Americans

clergy spouse study *from page 1*

bishops, conferences and local congregations.

- Promote specific conference resources, training and orientation models, and counseling assistance programs to all clergy and families.
- Enhance the training for Staff-Parish Relations committees to provide useful strategies and resources.
- Convene a summit to research the issues and work to develop needed resources.

As Garlinda Burton, interim general secretary, notes, "Our high expectations of clergy inevitably spill over to their families, and they often struggle in silence. We hope the findings of this study will prompt more intentional evaluation and reworking of our support systems for the families of United Methodist clergy." ❁

methodology The survey consisted of 14 questions allowing participants to respond in their own words. A total of 183 survey responses were received. Because of limited controls on survey dissemination, it was impossible to monitor the rate of return. Responses by jurisdiction are as follows: 48 percent Southeastern; 33 percent Northeastern; 16 percent South Central; 2 percent North Central; and less than 1 percent Western. Respondents included 28 male clergy spouses, 14 clergy couple spouses, and six retirees. The findings are intended as an initial step toward understanding feelings and perceptions of clergy spouses.

INTERNATIONAL

Seminar examines exploitation of women in global economy

A seminar on the role of women in our increasingly global economy was sponsored by the Mumbai World Social Forum in January. The seminar was organized by the World Council of Churches with the World Young Women's Christian Association and Church World Service.

Women panelists from India, Pakistan, Thailand and Uganda discussed the impact in their countries of trade liberalization on women. As a result of trade liberalization, women's underpaid and unpaid labor is exploited, and their access to basic needs, eroded. Moreover, the panelists emphasized, economic globalization cannot be considered separately from the inherent patriarchy of most political and economic systems.

The panelists brought proposals for a wide range of strategies and interventions at different levels, including organic farming, promotion and implementation of labor standards, disengagement from the World Trade Organization, and strengthening of social movements at local, national and global levels.

Women have resisted and challenged corporate forces that threaten their land, livelihood and communities. "We aim to work for transformation by building networks of women," Peralta said.—*World Council of Churches*

Women leadership expanding in Russian church

Women in leadership have become a trademark of the United Methodist Church in Russia, according to the denomination's bishop there.

In his report of church activities for 2003, Bishop Ruediger Minor of Moscow noted that seven of the 12 districts in his region – which also includes the Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Belarus and Kirgistan – have women superintendents.

These women, along with their colleagues in local churches, are well accepted, he said, adding that "even Baptists and Pentecostals in the local settings are beginning to accept them as colleagues."

—*United Methodist News Service*

Separate province for British women bishops opponents?

The creation of a third province of the Church of England to accommodate opponents of the ordination of women in the event the church decides to allow women to become bishops is apparently one of several options under consideration.

According to the *Daily Telegraph*, the option is mentioned in a draft report due to be considered by the House of Bishops, which sets out a number of options for how the Church of England could handle its minority of opponents of women's ordination, ranging from doing nothing to setting up a third province with its own archbishop.—*Religion News Service*

Lutheran women theologians discuss violence in Namibia

Women theologians from the three Lutheran churches in Namibia contextually reviewed the Lutheran World Federation document "Churches Say 'No' to Violence against Women" at an October seminar under the theme "For the Healing of our Communities."

The 30 congregational pastors and theological students also discussed "The Combating of Domestic Violence Act," which was enacted by the Namibian parliament this year. Those attending also shared experiences of violence and abuse in their communities and discussed ways in which the church could and ought to get involved in such situations.

They called for support groups, counseling and different forms of accompaniment that could help victims overcome feelings of shame and worthlessness, helplessness and isolation. Women were encouraged to join together in protest against the violence they experience at home or elsewhere, and urged men to renounce abuse and to stand by those subjected to it.—*Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

COPY DEADLINES

To ensure inclusion of job listings, calendar items, and other items to be published in *The Flyer*, please submit in writing by the following dates:

May 15, 2004.....June-Aug. 2004
Aug. 15, 2004.....Sept.-Nov. 2004

Send to: Bonny Stalnaker Roth
GCSRW, 1200 Davis St. Evanston, IL
60201 (800) 523-8390
e-mail: gcsr@gcfa.org

UNITED METHODIST

Trial set for lesbian clergy woman in Pacific NW

A March 17 clergy trial date has been set for a United Methodist pastor in the Pacific Northwest who disclosed to her bishop that she is living in a "partnered, covenanted homosexual relationship."

Karen Dammann will stand trial at Bothell United Methodist Church, outside Seattle, according to Elias Galvan, bishop of the Pacific Northwest Conference.

While affirming gays as people of sacred worth, the United Methodist *Book of Discipline* bars "self-avowed practicing homosexuals" from being ordained or serving as clergy. The charge against Dammann is for practices declared by the United Methodist Church to be incompatible with Christian teachings, according to the bishop's office.

Karen Dammann continues to serve at First United Methodist Church of Ellensburg, Wash.

Her disclosure to Galvan led to a series of hearings before official church bodies which sent the case back to two lower committees last fall. The Pacific Northwest's Committee on Investigation decided Jan. 12 in a 5-2 vote that Dammann would stand trial.

"The ultimate act of trying someone for being gay is bound to shake the tree—I hope in the direction of inclusiveness," Damman said.

In a clergy trial, a panel of 13 UMC pastors serves as the jury. In cases of conviction, the *Book of Discipline* provides for a range of penalties, including loss of ministerial orders for the clergy member. If convicted, Dammann would have the right to appeal.

—United Methodist News Service



Participating in a videotaped discussion for the second in a series of Bible studies for women are, left to right, Faye Lions, Marj Pon, Rebecca Laird, Amanda Bachus, and Julie Glass. The six-week series is being produced by the United Methodist Publishing House and United Methodist Communications.

Bible study helps women become 'sisters'

Sitting in a comfortable living room sipping coffee, five women are talking about a pregnant 13-year-old girl. It isn't someone they know; it's someone about whom they have read.

The living room is a television production stage. The 13-year-old girl they are discussing is Mary, the mother of Jesus. Amanda Bachus, Julie Glass, Faye Lions, Marj Pon and Rebecca Laird are being taped for a *Sisters Bible Study for Women*.

"Being so young and pregnant by the Holy Spirit, that is really beyond my comprehension," Bachus says. "That is why I am here in this Bible study — I want some answers."

Unfailing Love: Growing Closer to Jesus Christ, written by Laird, is the second in a series of Bible studies being produced by the United Methodist Publishing House and United Methodist Communications.

The six-week Bible series is written especially for women. Research conducted by the Publishing House pointed toward a need for such a study, says Mary Catherine Dean, an executive with the Nashville-based agency.

The first in the series, *Knowing God: Making God the Main Thing in My Life* by Kimberly Dunnam Reisman, was published in August 2003.

Sisters invites women to delve into the Bible, but it also offers them an opportunity to form deeper relationships with other women, says Lions, one of the four "sisters" in the group led by Laird.

In doing research for the project, Gadsden found that most material on the market was lecture based and didn't highlight the relational aspect that the *Sisters* series does.

For more information on the series, go to www.Cokesbury.com

—United Methodist News Service

'Our membership is mostly women . It is hard to get the men involved outside ushering and trustees.' Survey respondent

Quadrennial Local Church Survey



In preparation for every General Conference since 1970, the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women has conducted a survey of local churches in the United States. This report summarizes salient issues that arose in our ninth local church survey in 2003.

women in leadership

The survey revealed that 26 percent of United Methodist congregations are under the leadership of women district superintendents. The Western Jurisdiction shows the highest proportion of women district superintendents (43.3 percent), while the South Central Jurisdiction shows the lowest proportion (12.8 percent). It is interesting to note that among the churches responding, those led by a woman bishop are also more likely to be led by a woman district superintendent, 35 percent, compared with 23 percent when led by a male bishop. Twenty-seven percent of the churches have women as lead pastors, and 43 percent of the lay leaders are women. Of those churches with associate pastors, 45 percent are women; 71 percent of the music directors are women.

Despite the increasing presence of women, some areas of congregational leadership still appear to be reserved for men in Sunday morning services. Sixteen percent of the churches do not have female ushers, while 1 percent of the churches surveyed use only female ushers.

Native-American and Asian-American churches show the highest proportion of women ushers, while Euro-Anglo churches show the lowest. Of the churches that responded with no female ushers, 93 percent were Euro-Anglo churches. (The proportion of Euro-Anglo churches is 78 percent in the total number of returned survey.) It seems, in Euro-Anglo churches, ushering is still an area dominated by men. However, racial-ethnic churches show no significant gender exclusion in ushering.

women in leadership roles

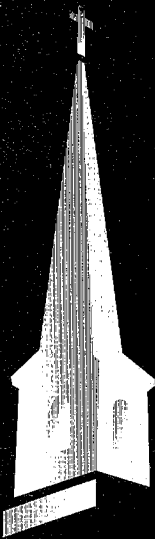
	None	1-33%	34-66%	67-99%	100%
Ushers	16	32	38	13	1
Lay liturgists	6	16	48	27	4

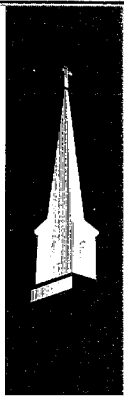
inclusive language

Inclusive language was a major topic of discussion for the denomination in the 1980s culminating in the production of the study guide, *Words That Hurt, Words That Heal* in 1985. The resource was used more broadly in the early 1990s, but usage seems to have declined in the late 1990s. This quadrennium's survey results suggest a somewhat increased interest in inclusive language, as 7 percent of local churches have recently studied the issue, compared with only four percent in the 1999 survey. Overall,

language of doxology

Male	82%
Neutral	8%
Other	10%





version of Bible used in worship

New Revised Standard Version	46%
Revised Standard Version	15%
King James Version	7%
Good News for Modern Man	3%
Living Bible	1%
New International Version	21%
The Message	1%
Other	6%

though, only 16.2 percent of the churches have offered an inclusive language study.

As for translations of the Bible used for worship, 46 percent of local churches use the *New Revised Standard Version* (NRSV). Those churches using the NRSV hear inclusive language for humanity with male language for God. The choice of hymnal also indicates the openness of a congregation to varied images of God and humanity. Some 40 percent of local churches use only *The United Methodist Hymnal*, which contains inclusive language for persons but not for God. About 22 percent also use *The Faith We Sing*, a supplement to *The United Methodist Hymnal* to reflect a wide diversity of Christian worship styles. About the same number of churches use "praise music."

The question of how we talk about God and humanity continues to draw emotional responses. The majority of respondents who offered comments affirmed the importance of inclusive language among their parishioners. Yet a minority of respondents failed to see any connection between exclusive language, sexism and other social justice issues, as indicated by this comment, "[Inclusive language] is an exercise in futility that does not need to be addressed here. Women are accepted as leaders...as long as issues of poverty, racism, hatred, and evangelism are primary, gender inclusion is a WASTE of time!"

sexual harassment policies

The 1996 General Conference mandated that each annual conference and local church adopt a sexual harassment policy. GCSRW monitoring indicates that 57 percent of local churches report having such a policy. Among those who have no policy, 21 percent have plans

sexual harassment policies in UM congregations

Membership	Policy '95	Policy '99	Policy '03
1-50	9.2%	14.6%	33.3%
51-100	18.5	19.2	60.9
101-300	15.4	41.0	56.2
301-500	25.8	41.2	65.3
501-1000	30.4	63.6	76.0
1001-2500	36.2	33.3	75.0

to create one. While there has been an increase in number of churches with a sexual harassment policy in the last four years, over 40 percent of our churches in the U.S. still do not have a sexual harassment policy.

Attitudes toward local church sexual harassment policies continue to represent a wide range of opinions. From one, "Our policy is reviewed every year with new board members." And another, "All staff—paid and volunteer, including clergy—are required to read, know and sign these policies." Yet other churches fail to see the importance of a policy for prevention and education: "No policy—we have no need for it!"

Congregations in large cities are more likely to have sexual harassment policies (73 percent), while the proportion of suburban and small city churches with policies is smaller (45 percent). Eight percent responded that they do not have a policy, while 14 percent do not know if they have one. Interestingly, in annual conferences where the presiding bishop is female, local churches having a sexual harassment policy is higher, 70 percent, compared with those with a male bishop, 54 percent.

issues of importance to women

One of the last questions on the survey invited pastors to check off specific concerns that women have raised in pastoral counseling settings. The most frequently cited concerns—those checked by at least two-thirds of respondents—are marriage/divorce, depression, and finances. More than half of pastors checked employment, aging parents, and single parenthood, followed closely by work/family balance, alcohol/drug abuse, and child-care. Approximately one-third of pastors checked mental illness and domestic violence. Concerns that are checked by about one-quarter of pastors are aging and child abuse memories. Less frequently cited concerns are unplanned pregnancy, rape and fear of becoming abusive. Of particular interest for the church's work to eradicate clergy sexual misconduct, about eight percent of pastors have heard this concern from their parishioners. ✨

methodology

A random sample of 1,300 United Methodist local churches (1,000 predominantly Euro-American and 300 over-sampling of racial ethnic) were contacted and asked to complete a questionnaire. The questionnaire sought information about the participation of women in Sunday morning services, inclusive language, the percentage of women in leadership roles, sexual harassment policies, and demographics of the church. Space was provided for additional comments. Of the 1,300 mailed out, 370 churches responded to the survey, showing 28.5 percent return rate.

march for women's lives

The largest pro-choice majority in history will march on Washington on Sunday April 25, 2004.

This pro-choice march is a collaborative effort of four leading national women's rights groups: the Feminist Majority, NARAL Pro-choice America, National Organization for Women, and Planned Parenthood Federation of America. To learn more, visit www.marchforwomen.org.

shower of stoles offers video

A video documenting the Shower of Stoles as well as the process that assembled them is now available.

The Shower of Stoles is a collection of hundreds of liturgical stoles from lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons from 21 denominations in five countries. Each stole incorporates the story of a LGBT person who is active in the life and leadership of their faith community, while lifting up those who have been excluded from service because of their sexual orientation.

To order the video with study guide and discussion questions, send a check or money order for \$23 (\$20 suggested donation plus \$3 postage and handling) to The Shower of Stoles Project, 57 Upton Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55405. Website: www.showerofstoles.org Phone: (612) 377-8792.

FaithTrust Institute continues mission

After 26 years as the Center for the Prevention of Sexual and Domestic Violence, the center has taken a new name, FaithTrust Institute. The new name reinforces the faith-based mission, while the new tagline, "Working together to end sexual and domestic violence," describes succinctly what the organization does.

FaithTrust Institute will continue to provide training and educational resources for clergy, lay leaders, chaplains, seminary faculty, pastoral counselors, national and regional denominational staff, policy makers of religious institutions, community advocates and many others on the faith aspects of sexual and domestic violence.

For more information, contact FaithTrust Institute, (206) 634-1903. www.faithtrustinstitute.org.

HONORING OUR FOREMOTHERS

Honor Barbara Heck and other lay women on Heritage Sunday

This year's Heritage Sunday theme centers on the witness of laywomen in our denomination. One of the outstanding historical figures is Barbara Ruckle Heck who died in 1804, just two hundred years ago.

Heck is legendary in the history of the United Methodist Church as the "foundress of American Methodism." She is honored for her part as the awakener, the spark that ignited a great flame by stirring up Philip Embury to begin preaching in New York in 1766. That event marks the commencement of Methodism in this land.



The General Commission on Archives and History offers biographical information about Heck and worship resources for celebrating Heritage Sunday, April 25, 2004. Website: www.gcqh.org. (973) 408-3189.

WORTH REPEATING



My ministry [as a delegate to] General Conference is an opportunity to communicate the roles and needs of women in the church...[and is] an affirmation of the voice of young adults. Eva Thai, Cerritos, Calif.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE NEWS

Minnesota CSRW offers resource on healthy boundaries

The Status and Role of Women and the Sexual Boundaries Training Action Teams of Minnesota Conference have donated a resource to their annual conference center: "A Sacred Trust: Boundary Issues for Clergy and Spiritual Teachers." This resource includes four 25-minute videos with discussion guide, produced by the Center for the Prevention of Sexual and Domestic Violence, now called FaithTrust Institute.

For each session, the discussion guide includes: discussion questions, role plays/case studies, journaling suggestions, and "Boundary Basics" handout. While certainly an excellent resource for clergy, this series can also be used with members of a congregation to help them learn about appropriate and inappropriate expectations and how to support their pastor's/teacher's self-care efforts.

For more information, contact the Resource Center for Churches, info@resourcesforthejourney.org. (612) 870-0861 (in the metro area) or, toll free, (888) 293-9901 (from greater Minnesota).

Iowa Commission sends The Flyer to 246 clergywomen

Iowa Conference Commission on the Status and Role of Women has spread the word on advocacy for women by sending each of their 246 clergywomen a complementary copy of *The Flyer* with encouragement to subscribe.

We invite your annual conference to do the same. Call (800) 523-8390. Or send us a note at GCSRW@gcfa.org.

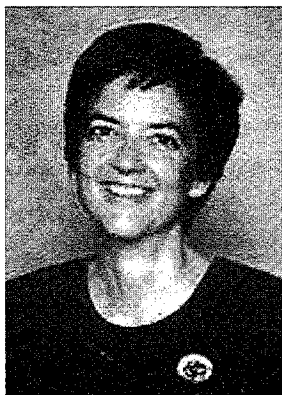
biblical women come to life at Alabama-West Florida retreat

Three biblical women came to life at Blue Lake United Methodist Assembly during the annual retreat hosted by Alabama-West Florida Commission on the Status and Role of Women on Jan. 23-24.

Retreat leader Hope Morgan Ward, Raleigh District Superintendent, North Carolina Conference, used her skills in biblical storytelling to breathe new life into Miriam, the woman of Samaria, and Lydia. Each of the three women experienced the love of God at the water's edge.

The theme of the 2004 retreat was "Come to the Water," infusing the entire weekend with the refreshing imagery and sounds of water. Throughout the retreat, songs, instruments and a trickling fountain soothed participants and reminded them of the beauty and serenity of Blue Lake.

Participants enjoyed water-themed music provided and led by Dawn Wiggins Hare and Nancy Carleton, a service of baptismal renewal, and a service of Holy Communion, led by Tonya Elmore and Robin Wilson.



Hope Morgan Ward

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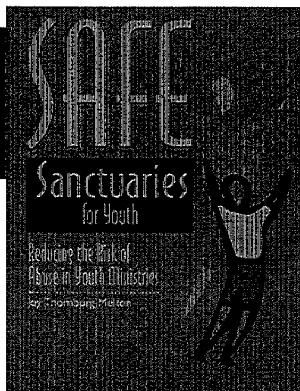
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in the United Methodist Church
1200 Davis Street, Evanston IL 60201

For better health for women and a healthier environment for our children, our newsletter is printed on chlorine-free, acid-free recycled paper.



R ESOURCES

Safe Sanctuaries for Youth: Reducing the Risk of Abuse in Youth Ministries, Joy Thornburg Melton (Discipleship Resources, 2003). This guide follows Melton's

first book *Safe Sanctuaries: Reducing the Risk of Child Abuse in the Church*, and provides guidance for developing policies and procedures to help make a congregation a safe place where youth may experience the abiding love of God and fellowship in the community of faith.

Journeys That Opened Up the World: Women, Student Christian Movements, and Social Justice, 1955-1975, ed. Sara M. Evans (Rutgers University Press, 2003). This book includes the stories of sixteen women who were active in the Civil Rights Movement, anti-war campaigns, and the rise of feminism in the Cold War era. It places religious activism at the center of social movements previously thought of as largely secular.

A House of Prayer for All Peoples: Congregations Building Multiracial Community, Sheryl A. Kujawa-Holbrook (Alban Institute, 2002). This book is designed to encourage congregations to participate actively in building multiracial community and to provide a context and resources for local churches to pursue this work on a long-term basis. It features several congregations across the U.S.

One Bread, One Body: Exploring Cultural Diversity in Worship, C. Michael Hawn (Alban Institute, 2003). The author offers case studies of four multicultural congregations and then provides ten strategies for cultivating common prayer.

Holy Conversations: Strategic Planning as a Spiritual Practice for Congregations, Gil Rendle and Alice Mann (Alban Institute, 2003). This handbook brings together practical tools and resources for every aspect of congregational planning. It leads beyond strategic planning to a holy conversation that honors the rich and unique dynamics of a congregation. ✨